junasagar-Tirupati has also been identified for intensive development under the National Action Plan for Tourism.

Decongestion of Trunk Routes

1401. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of Civil Aviation is dragging its feet on the air taxi Operators' (ATC) proposal for staggering flights in a bid to decongest the trunk routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the broad features of the proposed staggering plan; and

(d) the reaction of the DGCA|his Ministry thereto and how it is ultimately proposed to tackle the situation particularly during the peak hours on the Bombay-Delhi trunk route and balk down the constant fear of mid-air collision presently gripping the frequent air passengers on this busy route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The staggering of flights is planned to ensure:

(i) Availability of warking bays to aircraft.

(ii) Availability of adequate passenger terminal capacity and baggage conveyor blts.

(iii) Air Traffic control to handle the permitted flights.

(d) Approval of operating schedule of the operators after taking into account the above aspects will help in maintaining standard separation between the aircraft flying on any route in accordance with the provisions laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Decline in I passengers

1402. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that volume of pasengers travelling by Indian Airlines has declined in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government would like to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATOIN AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The passenger carriage by Indian Airlines has declined recently, mainly due to the loss of market to ATOs. Following are the major steps taken to improve the performance of Indian Airlines:—

(i) Product Improvements

— Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvtment In passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-300 aicrraft.

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies

— Incentives|concessions introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational Improvements

— Changes in the organisationa structure and Systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.